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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TEXT

TAGS: EFIN, PREL, AL, FR

SUBJECT: ALBANIAN CLAIMS SETTLEMENT - GOF SEES NO OBSTACLES

REF: STATE 59587

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. PURSUANT TO REFTTEL, WE CONTACTED BOTH THE QUAI D'ORSAY'S OFFICE OF FINANCIAL AFFAIRS (BENEDICTE CONTAMIN) AND THE FINANCE MINISTRY'S INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT (BRUNO LAFLOTTE) REGARDING FRANCE'S POSITION ON A FINAL CLAIMS SETTLEMENT WITH ALBANIA.
3. BOTH THE QUAI AND THE FINMIN SAID FRANCE WOULD WELCOME A U.S.-ALBANIAN AGREEMENT WHICH ENABLED THE TRIPARTITE GOLD COMMISSION (TGC) TO RETURN TO ALBANIA ITS ALLOCATION OF GOLD. BOTH ALSO AGREED THAT THE SETTLEMENT OF OUTSTANDING U.S. CLAIMS REPRESENTS THE SOLE REMAINING OBSTACLE TO RELEASE OF THE GOLD.
4. THE QUAI AND THE FINMIN DID NOTE THAT THERE STILL ARE A LIMITED NUMBER OF (PRIMARILY PRIVATE) FRENCH CLAIMS AGAINST ALBANIA (E.G. BY THE BANQUE NATIONALE DE PARIS). HOWEVER, THESE DISPUTES ARE BEING HANDLED SEPARATELY FROM THE GOLD QUESTION. CONSEQUENTLY, THE OFFICIALS ASSURED US THAT THE GOF DOES NOT/HAVE ANY CLAIMS AGAINST THE GOLD HELD BY THE TGC.

BOHLEN

ADMIN  
END OF MESSAGE

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